



School Safety and Emergency Management

Monthly Minute: Violence Prevention

April 2025

Monthly Minute is a newsletter providing insight and tips on potential threats and hazards brought to you by the Oregon Department of Education.



This Monthly Minute will discuss some of the indicators leading up to an act of violence, things we can do to intervene and prevent violence, and what we should know in case we experience targeted violence or other event that results in potentially life-threatening injuries.

Violence prevention requires multiple approaches. We should understand the indicators that could lead to violence, how to intervene before identified behaviors lead to violence, implement effective protocols to respond to violent activity, and know how to provide life-saving treatment with first aid. Schools can prevent, mitigate, respond to and more rapidly recover from acts of violence with these principles in mind.

The U.S. Secret Service Report - **Averting Targeted School Violence (May 2021)** states that “a multidisciplinary threat assessment team, in conjunction with the appropriate policies, tools, and training, is the best practice for preventing future tragedies.” In addition, the Oregon Department of Education’s School Safety and Prevention System program (SSPS) was created to help districts develop and implement the appropriate policies, tools and training—including the establishment of behavioral safety assessment teams (described above as a “multidisciplinary threat assessment team”). If you or your district needs assistance with any of these practices, you can find out more at **the SSPS website**.

School violence prevention efforts should keep in mind what the Secret Service report also notes: “All attackers exhibited concerning behaviors. Most elicited concern from others and most communicated their intent to attack.” This is important because it means that if we see a concerning behavior and intervene, we can interrupt the path to violence. Concerning behaviors could be a disturbing journal entry, a threat posted on social media, or other methods of threatening or violent behavior. The

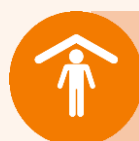
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This Month... Conduct a Hold drill. Review or conduct first aid training. See the call-out on the following page for more info.

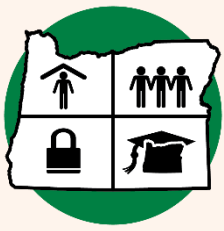


Hold! in your room or area. Clear the halls.

Up Next... May’s Monthly Minute will address event planning ahead of graduation ceremonies in June. Conduct a Shelter! Drill in May.



Conduct a Shelter-in-Place Drill in May.



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First Aid and Stop-the-Bleed

First aid helps people know how to help in the first few minutes following an injury. Needed actions can include providing a bandage, stabilizing a joint, administering CPR, using an automated external defibrillator (AED), or putting on a tourniquet. Contact us at the link below or visit the following links to find out more:

- [Stop the Bleed](#)
- [First Aid for Severe Trauma](#)



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complexity of both behavior and intervention are too much to explain here, but you should know who you can report to on your school's behavioral safety assessment team. If you are on your school's behavioral safety assessment team, strongly encourage your students and staff to let you know when they have identified disturbing or violent behavior. Make it clear that such reports are not used to punish students, but to inform intervention efforts that can redirect violent tendencies in a more positive direction.

Unfortunately, even with the knowledge we have about prevention and intervention, we still see acts of targeted violence. If such an event does

occur, it is important to consider the following:

- Most attacks last five minutes or less.
- Lockdown drills save lives, but more importantly, **locked doors save lives.**
- First aid training and stop-the-bleed training saves lives.

Practice your lockdown drill according to the guidance given by **the Standard Response Protocol.** Maintain a culture of keeping doors locked when class is in session. And seek out and conduct first aid and stop-the-bleed training for students and staff. That last point is important, not just for acts of targeted violence, but for any situation when a person suffers a life-threatening injury.

Contact Information



Scan or click the QR code to visit the School Safety and Emergency Management website with additional school emergency preparedness resources, and to **sign up for the monthly training and technical assistance sessions.**

Resources

[Safe Oregon School Safety Tip Line](#)

[Lockdown Drills: A Widely Used Yet Often Misunderstood Practice](#)

[The Standard Response Protocol information page.](#)

[Oregon Emergency Management local contacts list.](#)